



**“To you is born in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”**

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church  
Rev. Christopher Litton  
9833 Harford Road  
Carney, Maryland 21234**

**Christmas Eve Services: 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 9:00 PM**

**CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Nativity of Our Lord** **December 24, 2017**  
**CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE**

*We welcome you to the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. On this blessed evening, we welcome all visitors. If you are looking for a church home, we hope that you will consider making Christus Victor your home congregation.*

*We believe that Holy Communion is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sake. Holy Communion is God's ultimate act of forgiveness given to us in the hopes that we understand this gift as God's act of grace. It is offered free to us but at the cost of God's only Son, Jesus Christ; and, in the hopes that we share God's grace with one another.*

*It is in that spirit that Jesus is the one who invites all to come to the altar to receive God's Grace and forgiveness. Therefore, you are invited to the table of God's grace to receive communion, for it is God who does the inviting.*

**PRELUDE:**

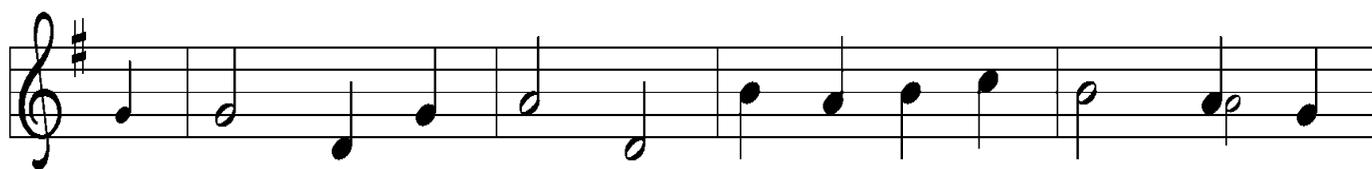
O Come to the Manger, *arr. Douglas Wager*

Thank you to our special guest, Chris Fyhr, violin, for his music at the 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM services this year.

**WELCOME**

**\*ADORATION CAROL 283 *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful***

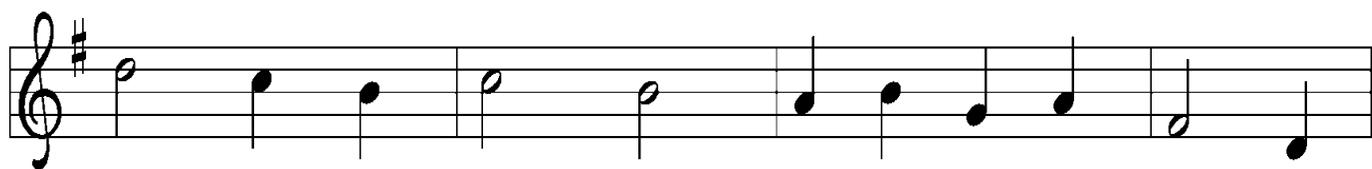
**O, Come, All Ye Faithful**



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

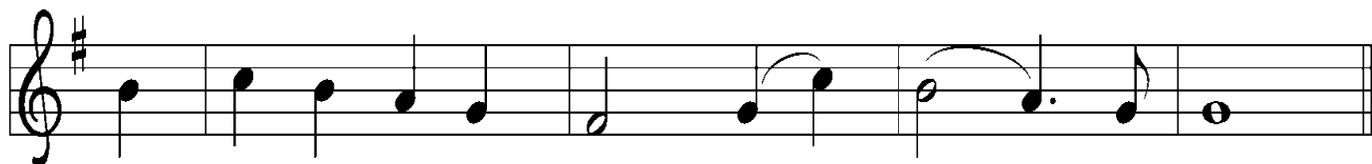


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.*  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT/CHRIST CANDLES

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. With Mary and Joseph, with the angels and shepherds, and with the animals in the stable we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us, and fill us with joy and wonder as we light these candles. May Jesus be born in our lives, that we might share his light and love with all the world, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

*Light all four Advent candles and the Christ candle.*

### Hymn 296

### *What Child Is This*

#### What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

## \* CHRISTMAS DIALOG

Minister: Glory to God in the highest,

**People: and peace to God's people on earth.**

Minister: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace.

**People: You rule the world with truth and justice.**

Minister: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

**People: Blessed are you, son of Mary. You share our  
humanity.**

Minister: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this  
day.

**People: Blessed are you, Son of God.**

Minister: You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

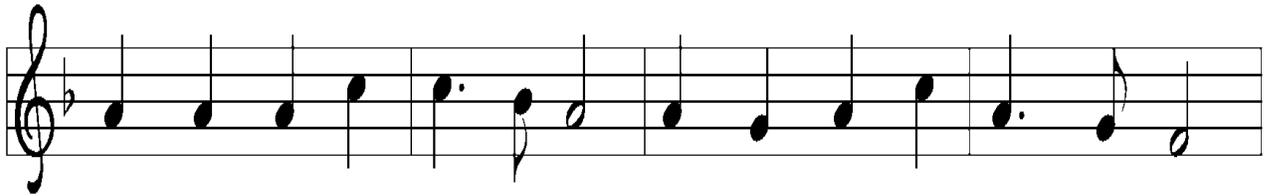
**People: Reveal yourself to us in Word and Sacrament that  
we may bear your light to all the world.**

Minister: The grace of the child born for us and the joy of the Son  
given to us be with you all.

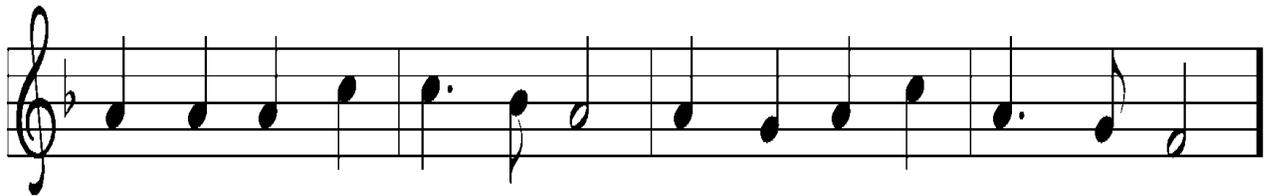
**People: And also with you.**

*\*Hymn of Praise*

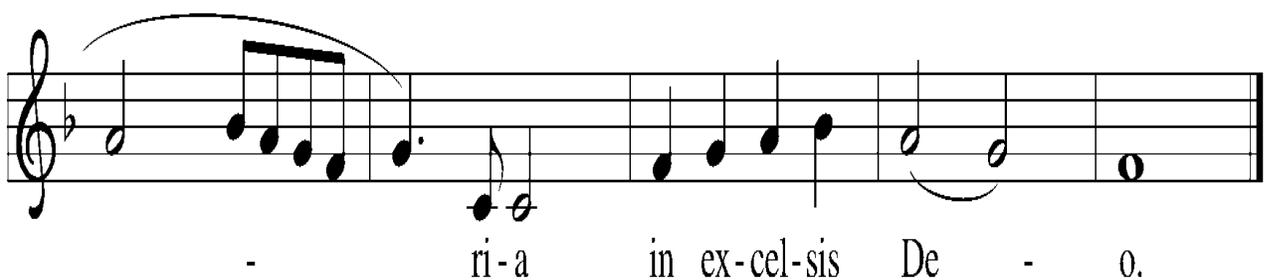
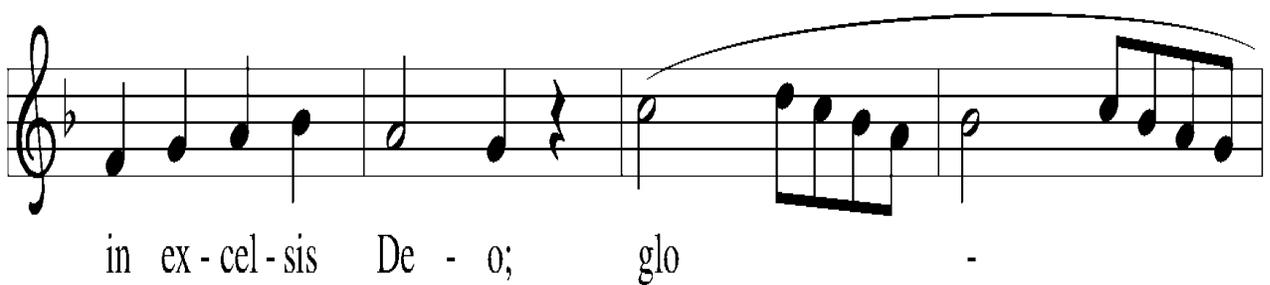
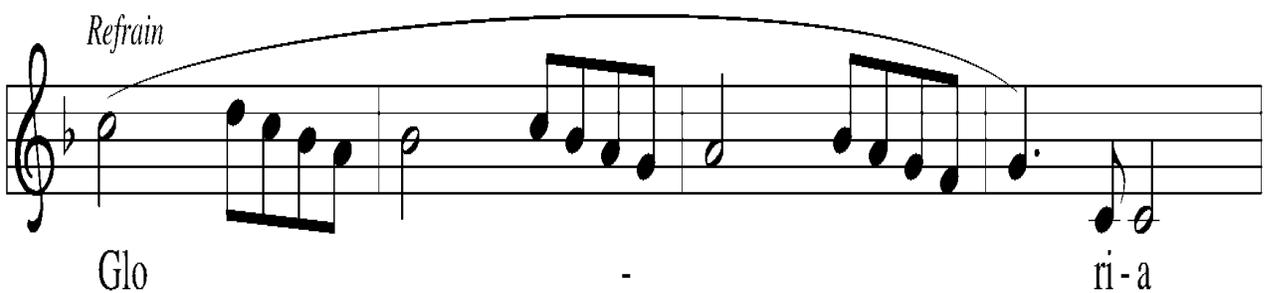
# Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol

**Assisting Minister:** Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nations, you have increased their joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born to us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us

that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

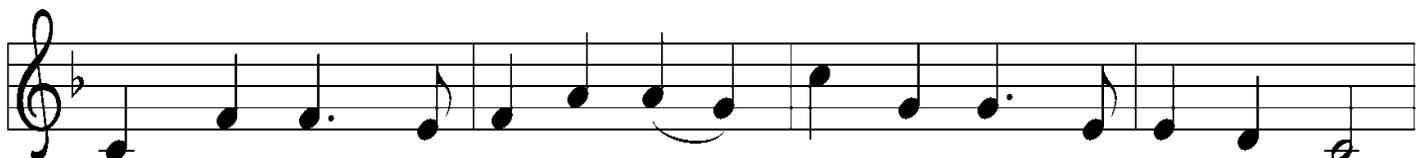
People: Thanks be to God.

**\*Hymn 270 Verses 1 & 2 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

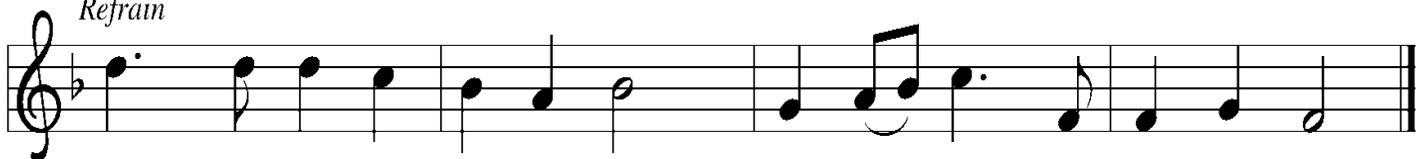


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL**

**Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host, praising God and saying, “*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!*” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

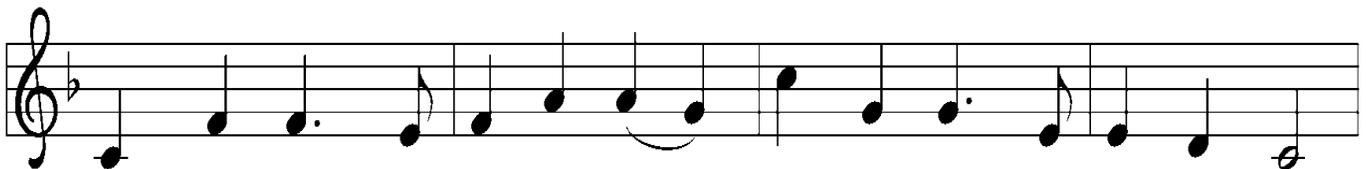
**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**\*HYMN 270 Verse 3 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

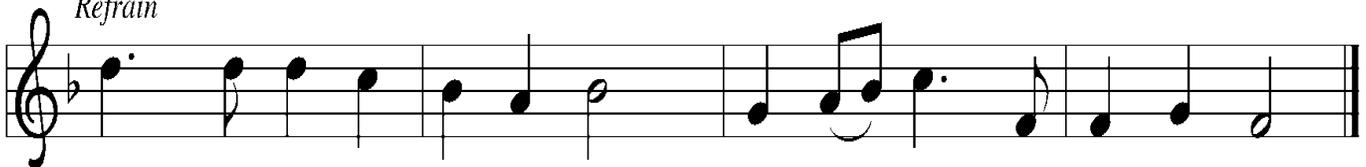


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

*(Please be seated)*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (3:00 PM)**

## **HOMILY (6:00 PM and 9:00 PM)**

*(All are invited to stand as able)*

### **\*THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Assisting Minister:** Joining our voices with all in heaven and on earth praising the Word made flesh in Jesus, let us pray for the world to which Christ comes, the church whom Christ calls, and all people in need whom Christ loves.

*A brief silence*

**Assisting Minister:** Wonderful Counselor, in the fullness of time you became one of us and your wisdom from on high came down to make a home among us. On this holy night, establish and uphold our world with your justice and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

**Assisting Minister:** Mighty God, when the time had been fulfilled, you came down from heaven and became one with your creation by taking on our humanity. On this holy night, enable and empower your Church to embrace your beloved humanity in its many and varied expressions. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

**Assisting Minister:** Word of Life, on the night of your birth you hallowed all time and all flesh. On this holy night, expand the vision of this faith community to recognize and welcome your holy face, in every human being, and acknowledge your sacred fingerprint on every living thing. We pray now for those who are ill or in need. We pray for those from among us who are unable to be with us to worship tonight. We pray for comfort and protection for those who are serving our country in the military. Keep watch over them this night of all nights. We pray that all people everywhere may walk with joy in God's glorious, life-giving light.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

**Minister:** Come down to us, O God, and make your home with us, in us, and through us, for the sake of the one whose birth the angels and the shepherds proclaimed, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: **Amen.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

Minister: The Peace of Christ be with you all

People: **And also with you**

**OFFERING**

**ANTHEM (3:00 PM & 6:00 PM):** The Virgin Slumber  
Song, *Teschemacher and Reger*

**ANTHEM (9:00 PM):** A Christmas Lullaby, *Arr. Crawford R. Thoburn*

**\*Offertory Hymn 279 Verses 1 & 2** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
(All are invited to stand as able)

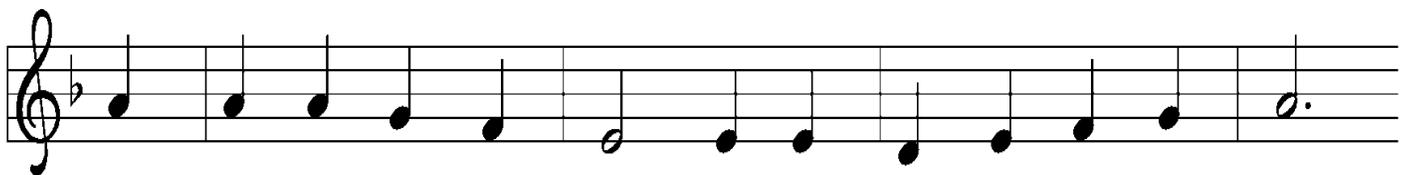
O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

## **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Assisting Minister:** Let us pray.

**God of time and eternity, you have given your only Son, born of Mary, to save and redeem us. Receive now these gifts that we bring and let the works of our hands proclaim the news of your redeeming love in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**Minister:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Minister:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Minister:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**Minister:**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## People:



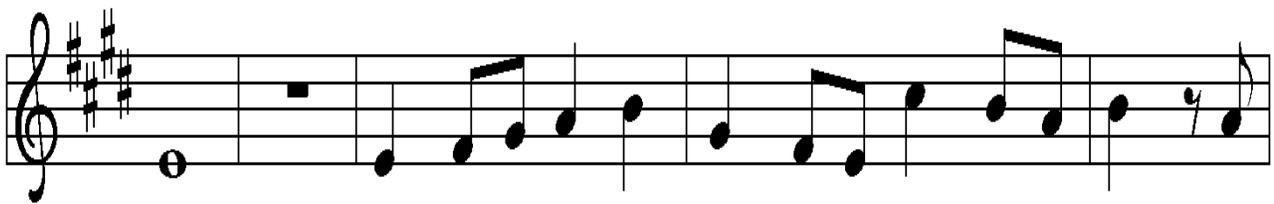
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



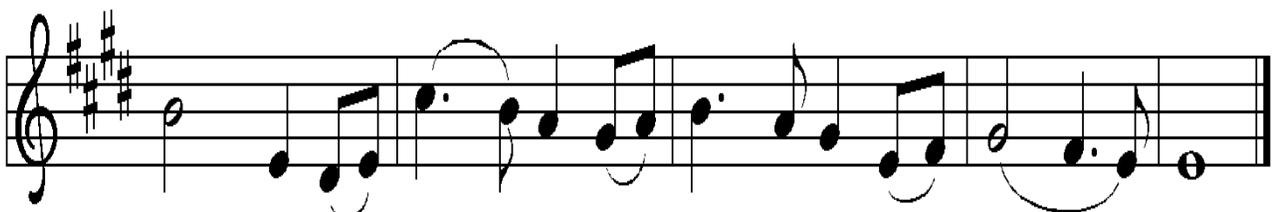
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying “take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink; saying “this cup is the new covenant in my blood; shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray;

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **WORDS OF CELEBRATION**

**Assisting Minister:** Let us proclaim together,

**We celebrate the fact that through Christ we have been filled with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. As we light these candles, let the light of our faith shine in all that we do, challenging us to witness to Him, by our thoughts, words, and deeds.**

**CANDLE LIGHTING** (please remain silent during this time)

(The pastor, taking a candle, lights it from the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World. The ushers will light their candles from the Pastor's candle. The first person in each pew will then light their candle from the usher's candle as the ushers pass down the center aisle. The people in the pew will light their candles in turn from the candle of the person next to them.

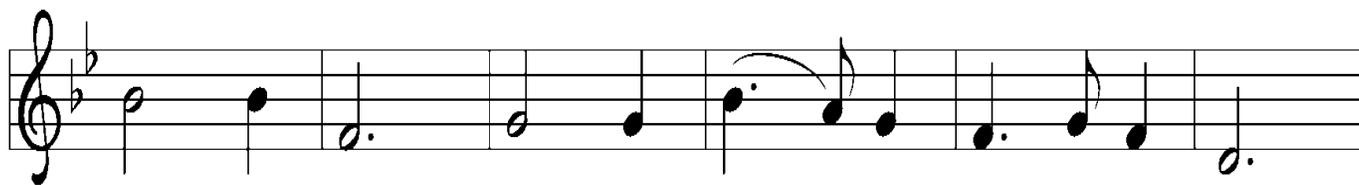
**Please light the candles by dipping the unlit candle toward the flame of the lit candle. Please DO NOT dip the lit candle as this may cause burns from the melted wax. When all candles are lit, we will sing the next hymn.)**

# Silent Night, Holy Night!

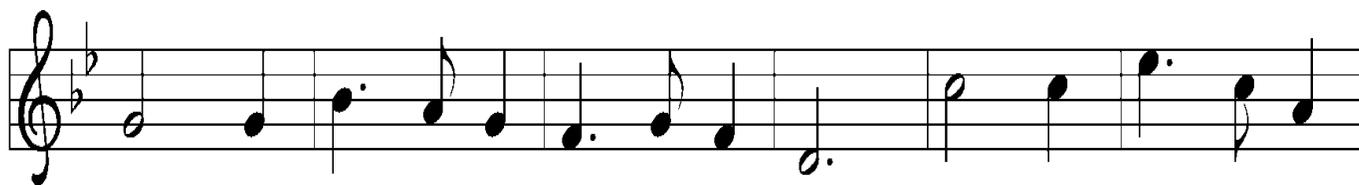
## *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!*



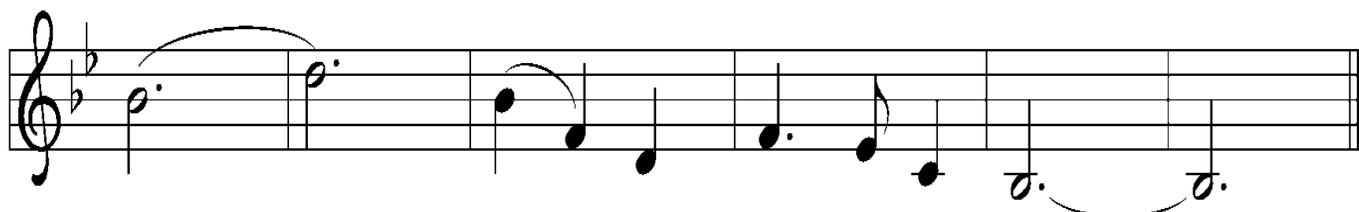
*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

*(Candles are extinguished)*

**\*CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Minister:** Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**Minister:** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

**People: Praise God, all creatures here below!**

**Minister:** You are the shepherds telling the story.

**People: We tell it in the streets and across the land.**

**Minister:** You are the wise ones worshipping with thanksgiving.

**People: We worship with gifts of song and service, talents,  
and treasure.**

**Minister:** You are the angels announcing the peace.

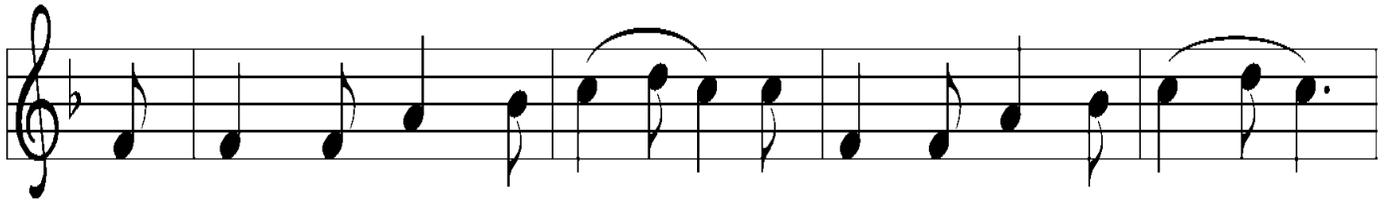
**People: We live with joy and go now in peace.**

**Minister:** Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

\* SENDING HYMN

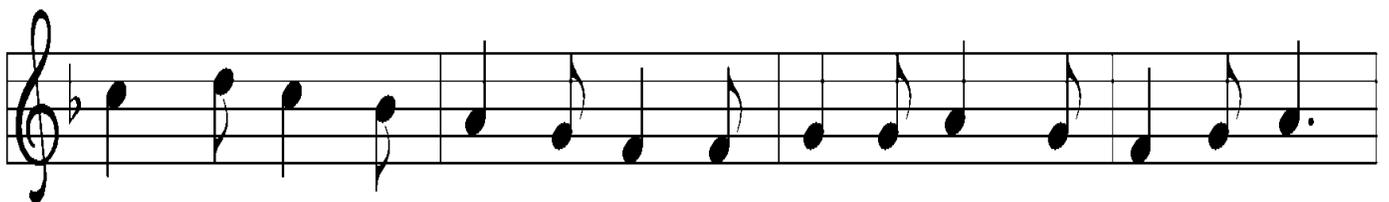
## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



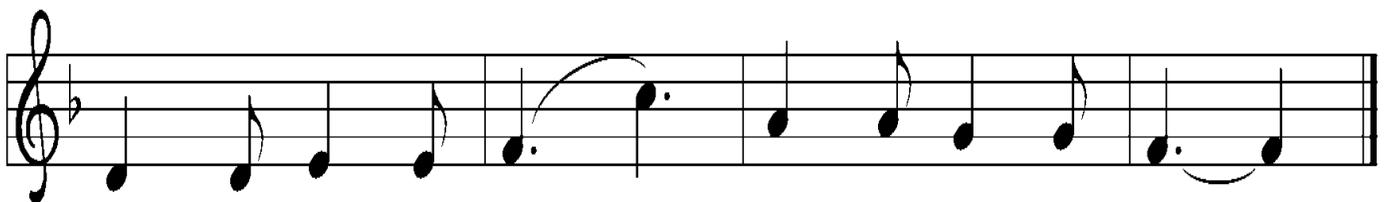
1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

*We invite you to be seated for some post service musical meditation. If you do not wish to remain, please move conversations to the narthex to allow those who wish to reflect and meditate the opportunity to do so.*

**POSTLUDE:** What Child Is This?, Arr. R. Vaughn Williams



We wish you a blessed Christmas!

Please join us on Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 AM for our New Year's Eve Service.

Our regularly scheduled worship times are:

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

11:00 a.m. Worship

We hope that you will consider Christus Victor as your home church and we look forward to seeing you again.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting with the pastor, his contact information is:

[pastorlitton@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlitton@gmail.com)

office: 410-668-8089

cell: 443-517-9890



# BISHOP GOHL'S *Christmas message*

2 0 1 7

*Down in a lonely manger, the humble Christ was born; and  
God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn!*

My beloved, all:

Christmas is a time of joyous surprise as we receive God's gift of hope yet again. The darkness, though threatening, has not overwhelmed us. In bread and cup, body and blood, the gift of Christ comes *given and shed for you*, for me and for all. In a simple, almost hidden way, hope breaks into our hearts, our lives and our world anew.

The joy of such a simple, subtle surprise stands in stark contrast to the let-down experienced by so many of us. Gail Ramshaw once put it succinctly: "Santa Claus promised us perpetual happiness, a mythic family gathering, mounds of toys, all of our heart's desires. But it didn't happen. Heaven didn't establish itself in my living room this year. We got sick on the eggnog..."

Because Christmas is for so many a painful time, a season of disappointment and loneliness, it is important for the church's celebrations and holy day observances to be different.

Let this season of hope be a time of telling the truth in love. Let it be a time to center our lives in prayer, the Word made

flesh, a holy communion with God and neighbor. Let us remind one another, that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is born among us, still the ruler yet. Let us receive the gift; and be in Christ, gift to one another and the world.

Praying with you that our days and our deeds in this Christmas season and throughout 2018 will be marked with peace. I am grateful for the privilege of serving Christ with the Pastors, Deacons and Lay Leaders of our Delaware-Maryland Synod; may we witness faithfully to the love of God in Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel.

*...Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Gohl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl Jr., Bishop  
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA